

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended.

Formal Matters

In this amendment, claims 2, 5, 7, 12, 15, and 17 are pending, and claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-11, 13-14, 16, and 18-20 are canceled. Claims 2, 5, 7, 12, 15, and 17 are amended to further clarify what is being claimed, and to correspond with the Japanese application from which this application claims priority. In particular, claims 7 and 17 are amended to be independent claims, claim 7 incorporating features of claim 2 and claim 17 incorporating features of claim 12. Claims 2 and 5 are amended to depend from claim 7, and claims 12 and 15 are amended to depend from claim 17. Care has been taken to ensure no new matter is being entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 are objected to because each occurrence of “the hit” and “the miss” should be changed to “a hit” and “a miss”, respectively. Claims 17 and 20 are objected to because the Examiner contends that two different outcomes are listed for memory masters accessing a same bank and a same page.

Claims 2, 5, 7, 12, 15, and 17 are amended to incorporate the Examiner’s requirements that each occurrence of “the hit” and “the miss” be changed to “a hit” and “a miss”, respectively.

Claim 17 is amended to recite that if the memory master gets the next access to the bank being presently accessed and to the page being presently accessed, then two activities occur: 1) said memory control unit terminates the routine without closing said

bank being presently accessed at the time of completion of present access operations regardless of the prediction from said hit predicting unit, and 2) said arbiter unit selects said memory master with priority.

Claims 10 and 20 are canceled. Hence withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 5, 12, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Schumann et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,889,714 (hereinafter "Schumann"). This rejection should be withdrawn based on the comments and remarks herein.

The Examiner acknowledges that Schumann does not teach or suggest the open/close policy set forth in claims 7 and 10 of the present invention (Office Action, page 5, paragraph 7). Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 17, as amended herein, recites an open/close policy that corresponds to the open/close policy set forth in claim 7. Accordingly, independent claims 7 and 17 are allowable, as are their dependent claims, claims 2, 5, 12, and 15.

Hence, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

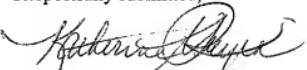
For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and allow the Application.

Applicant respectfully requests that, even if the Examiner is unable to allow the application, the amended claims be admitted into the application because these claims

present the rejected claims in better form for appeal, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.116(b)(2).

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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